



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Second-grade students perform "Little Red Riding Hood" for their classmates.

Playful learning at Butzbach

Classroom play supports curriculum

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The play's the thing once a year for Butzbach Elementary School kindergartners through second-graders. That's when young thespians show off their acting talents as the school hosts its classroom play week.

"The kids just love those days when they get to act for their peers or even parents when they have time to drop by. The students who have participated in previous years are getting very excited and just can't wait for the plays. It's a break from the routine for the kids," said Gifted and Talented Program teacher Sue Alldaffer.

The plays are integrated into the curriculum and are appropriate for the children of those ages, she said.

"The kindergartners first did a class on bears, then we read 'Goldie Locks and the Three Bears' and then did the classroom play.

"With the first- and second-graders we did a Brothers Grimm study, talking about the fairy tales they wrote, and then decided

to do "Little Red Riding Hood" for the plays," she said.

Every class was given two days to perform. One play lasted about 10 minutes and was continuously repeated with different "actors" giving every student the chance to play every role in the play. Costumes were made by parents and an overhead projector created stage images on the wall.

"It looks like a fun activity for the students, but actually it's more than that. Doing plays in a classroom environment gives teachers a chance to see if students can remember things, see if they remember the sequence of events and their stage presence as these things are important. They also learn to talk out loud. Some kids are very quiet and shy, and we work on that during the play. It's just good practice for them," Alldaffer said.

"We all had a lot of fun during the play week, especially for the dads who are home from Iraq for a break. I've noticed that many dads took advantage of the offer to attend, and they enjoyed getting involved in their child's school activities," Alldaffer said.

Return and Reunion program

The 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service hosts a Return and Reunion program for spouses of deployed Soldiers.

The class will be conducted every Tuesday at the Friedberg ACS from 9-11 a.m., and at the Giessen ACS from 1-3 p.m. The program provides a forum to prepare spouses for the changes and altered expectations that result from a lengthy deployment separation, enabling family members to recognize and deal with resulting challenges. Participants can discuss trauma that may affect redeploying Soldiers and how to handle it. Spouses whose active duty Soldiers are scheduled to PCS or ETS within the next eight weeks are also invited to attend. To register call Friedberg ACS at civ (06031) 81-3465 or Giessen ACS at civ (0641) 402-7618.

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Spouses should attend outprocessing briefs

The more you know, the better you cope

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The 284th Base Support Battalion Central Processing Facility hosts outprocessing briefings twice a month to inform departing Soldiers about the requirements for a smooth transition to their next duty station or separation from the Army.

"Since most Soldiers are deployed, and often don't return 30 days before their scheduled departure date, we encourage spouses to attend the briefing so he or she can start the transition process as early as possible, giving them enough time for the clearing process," said 284th BSB CPF coordinator Dillard Horace.

"According to U.S. Army regulation 612-1 all Soldiers are required to attend a briefing 60-90 days before their scheduled departure. The briefings are offered downrange; however, the appointments need to be scheduled over here. Spouses can make those appointments for them," he said.

"The briefings are very beneficial because representatives of the Community Bank, Army Community Service, Finance and many other agencies are available to give participants detailed outprocessing information. This makes the entire clearing process easier," he said.

Appointments to attend a briefing are not required. Spouses need only bring a copy of their Soldier's orders and any questions they

may have, Dillard said.

Latasha Jackson, spouse of a deployed Soldier and 284th BSB CPF assistant, is used to helping Soldiers and spouses with the transition process. Since her family is scheduled to PCS in January, Jackson has now experienced firsthand how much planning is involved in the entire process, she said.

"You have to make flight reservations, you need to make appointments to ship your car and the household goods, and the Soldier has to clear with CIF and many other places. However, you need to know where to start. That's why I recommend everyone come to the briefing," she said.

"The Soldiers receive their orders downrange, and it often takes a long time before a spouse gets a copy of them because not all soldiers have access to email or fax. In such a case spouses should then contact their unit's S-1 office," she added.

"After the briefing attendees can stop by at the CPF office in Building 4 on the Giessen Depot and we can help them start the process. We are also assisting anyone who still has questions by giving a desk side briefing," said Dillard.

Outprocessing briefings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in Giessen and every fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in Friedberg. Because of the upcoming holidays there will be only one briefing in December, to be held Dec. 9 in Friedberg.

For information and assistance call the CPF at civ (0641) 402-8077/6535 or mil 343-8077/6535.



ACS special events

Quilting Bee

The Bad Nauheim Outreach Center hosts a Quilting Bee workshop Dec. 4 and 6 from 10-11 a.m. Anyone interested in learning the basic techniques of quilting, sharing their own techniques or in doing repairs on their best seasonal quilt is invited to this workshop. For details call civ (06031) 81-3566.

Recipe swap

Friedberg Army Community Service hosts a Holiday Recipe Swap Dec. 23 from 10-11 a.m. Everyone is invited to join the group for fun and networking. Bring your favorite recipe. For more information call civ (06031) 81-3566.

Christmas celebrations

In conjunction with the Soup's On the ACS in Giessen hosts a Christmas party Dec. 18 from 1-4 p.m. Everyone is invited. The Parent and Me Playgroup in Butzbach conducts its Christmas party Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon, Friedberg celebrates Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon and the Giessen group hosts its

party Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. For details ACS Giessen at mil 343-7218 or ACS Friedberg at mil 324-3566.

It's tea time

The Bad Nauheim Outreach Center hosts a Sugar and Spice Tea Time Dec. 18, from 8:30-9 a.m. Community members are invited for tea and conversation. For more information call civ (06031) 81-3566.

Visits from Santa

Santa Claus will visit Butzbach Dec. 8 from 2-4 p.m. He'll be walking from the shoppette up the main street of Roman Way Housing to the Outreach Center. Santa will visit Giessen's Marshall Housing Dec. 9 from 3-4 p.m. and Friedberg's McArthur Housing Dec. 10 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.



Santa's helper lives in Giessen

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

If the North Pole were hiring this season a Giessen family member might just get the job as a bona fide Santa's helper.

Marion Hunter is currently working overtime in her Marshall Housing apartment to finish and pack 5,000 self-designed and handmade Christmas cards. Their ultimate destination is Iraq.

"I am sending those cards to the deployed Soldiers as a small gift, sharing the holiday spirit and letting them know that I appreciate their efforts in Iraq," Hunter said.

"My initial goal was to send five cards to about 1,000 soldiers from Giessen. I had to change the plan because it was too difficult to get the names of all the Soldiers. Now I am sending 10 cards per Soldier, and instead of writing each Soldier's name on the package, I will pack all the cards in boxes and have the brigade send them down-range and distribute them to the Soldiers," she said.

Her husband's deployment prompted Hunter to make the cards, she said.

"It's not the first deployment we are going through. In 1996 my husband deployed to Bosnia for 10 months. I knew that this deployment to Iraq was not going to be easy, and after he left in spring I was very depressed and I started to look for things I could do to keep myself busy," said Hunter.

"As soon as the troops deploy you hear about Soldiers who never receive any mail or packages. This made me wonder about Christmas. I was wondering if the Soldiers would be able to buy Christmas cards. I believe that when families are separated it's important for them to stay in touch — especially during the holiday season," she said.

"I always enjoyed doing crafts, booking and stamping, so I decided to make Christmas cards for the Soldiers so they have something they can send to their loved ones," said Hunter.

Hunter began to work on her

project in July by purchasing materials such as special paper, envelopes and card-sized plastic bags in which to pack them.

"I think I've spent about \$600 for the material. I used to make my own cards to send to my family, but I must admit that I underestimated the work involved in producing thousands of cards," she said.

Hunter has gotten help from her friend Mindy Carlson in Ohio, who has cut, stamped and packed 1,000 cards and sent them to Hunter. Her father, who lives in Germany, has also helped out.

"We spent an entire weekend cutting the paper, and he also helped pack cards. Whenever he came over for a visit he helped me with all the work," Hunter said.

"It was a lot of work, but I enjoyed doing that. I just wanted to let the Soldiers know that I really appreciate what they are doing for their country. Being apart for Christmas is hard for all of us, and I am trying to do my share to make it a little bit easier," Hunter said.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Marion Hunter prepares one of the 5,000 Christmas cards she is sending to the deployed Soldiers of Giessen.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Paying tribute to American heroes

Lt. Col. Bart U. Shreve (right), 284th BSB commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Francis and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars observe a moment of silence to honor all American men and women who served and still serve in the armed services of the United States of America during a Veterans Day observance held Nov. 11 on the U.S. Depot in Giessen.



Photo by Capt. Noel Gorospe

Bandits transfer authority

Lt. Col. Garry P. Bishop (center), commander of the 1-37th Armor Regiment, and Ayaad Toama, neighborhood advisory council member of the Al-Beida area, cut the yellow ribbon during a transfer of authority of the Jamilla Power Station in Al-Beida, Baghdad, from U.S. control to the Ministry of Electricity. "Today Al-Beida and its surrounding communities enjoy electrical power, fostering renewed hope for the neighborhood. Now streetlights offer a sense of security; televisions, radios and other electrical equipment are now more operable than ever before. This renewed sense of security and vast availability of electricity in the Al-Beida community inculcates a new sense of Iraqi freedom," said Bishop.

Bringing everyone to the table

Chaplains build contacts with Baghdad religious leaders

Commentary by Chaplain (Maj.) Dean Bonura
Task Force 1st Armored Division

Stabilizing a city ravaged by war is no easy task.

Recognizing the significant role religious leaders play in the daily life of most Iraqis, 1st Armored Division leaders have sent out chaplains from the division, the 1st Brigade's Ready First Combat Team and attached elements to build relationships and forge alliances with religious figures in eastern Baghdad.

Unit Ministry Teams have made contact with a range of religious leaders — from Shi'a and Sunni imams and sheiks to Armenian and Roman Catholic bishops and priests. The chaplains are reaching out through neighborhood advisory councils and networking from existing contacts.

The message they bring encourages support for coalition forces, conveys the U.S. commitment to provide an acceptable quality of life for the Iraqi people, and stresses

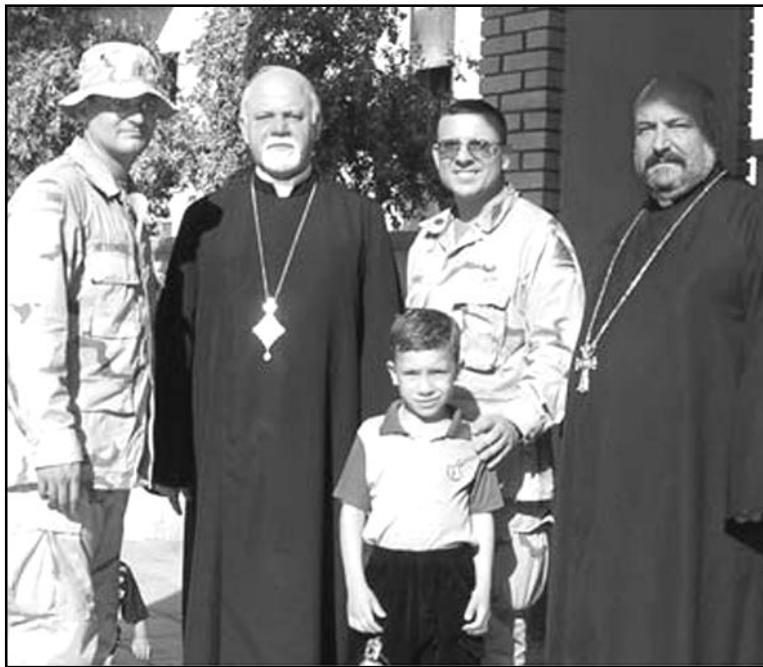


Photo by Chaplain (Maj.) Dean Bonura

Chaplain (Capt.) Messenger (left) of the 1-36th Infantry Regiment, Archbishop Avak Asadourian of the Baghdad Diocese, Chaplain (Maj.) Dean Bonura of the 1st Armored Division and Rev. Gabrillian Simon of St. Mary's Orthodox Church pose for a photo after a meeting.

the American commitment to honor the importance of religious rites and sacred practices, regardless of religious affiliation.

Meetings with religious leaders revealed that many imams are concerned for the security of their neighborhoods, the quality of life of their

communities and the need to help the needy.

While many meetings are friendly and have found points of agreement, not all contacts have gone so smoothly. Despite coalition efforts to improve the everyday living conditions in the city,

particularly providing repairs for mosques and churches, there is a lingering sense that the coalition is doing too little.

Sheik Hayder Kadhimi of the al-Tamimi mosque said he was concerned about the use of U.S. funds for repairs and revitalization in Baghdad. He contended that repairing the bridge between Karbala and Najaf, two cities south of Baghdad that are sacred to Shi'a Muslims, would be a better use of American money.

"The repairing of the bridge would be a great gesture, especially during Ramadan," he said. Kadhimi also indicated the need for security assistance around his mosque, another common theme the chaplains hear from Muslim leaders.

Contacts with Christian leaders have been friendly, and their concerns are similar to those of the imams — the need for security and the availability of electricity.

Archbishop Avak Asadourian and the Rev. Gabrillian Simon of the Armenian Orthodox Church both expressed deep concerns over the security of their parishioners and the need for electricity at St. Mary's Church. Fortunately for their community an American unit com-

mander was able to submit a proposal for the installation of a generator at the church.

Similar projects have been started at several mosques in Baghdad.

It is important that all faith groups are represented in U.S. efforts to assist religious leaders, and despite very positive engagements to date, there remains a lot to do. The chaplains still have many more religious leaders to meet. Particularly challenging is the effort to win over neutral and non-supportive religious leaders.

The message the chaplains are bringing stresses that unsupportive remarks ultimately hurt the Iraqi people and could undermine the progress that has already been made. The goal is to stabilize and improve their quality of life.

Unit chaplains believe the alliances they are building will help in the long-term process of engendering hope among Iraqis and an understanding among all religious leaders that a constructive and inclusive effort for rebuilding Baghdad holds out the best hope for a solid peace and prosperous future for all.

Community spotlight... Community spotlight

Open slots at Butzbach SAS

Butzbach School-Age Services has open slots for before- and after-school child care as well as intermittent hourly care. SAS provides children with a huge playroom, a music room, an art room, a newly renovated computer room and a gym. A homework assistant is also available. Children must first be CLEOS registered. Call SAS to arrange for an orientation at civ(06033)65961.

Ironside Lanes update

The Ironsides Lanes Bowling Center in Giessen will host a **Saint Nickolas open house** Dec. 6 from 2-6 p.m. Complimentary pictures with Santa will be taken and warm holiday punch and fresh baked goodies will be available. Every Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. is **group discount night**. Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. is **75 cents night**. Bowl for 75 cents per game, rent shoes for 75 cents and eat french fries and grilled cheese sandwiches for 75 cents each. Thursday night is **Family Extreme Bowling Night**. Lane rental is \$15 from 6-9 p.m. On Saturday **Youth Extreme Bowling** from 2-4 p.m. offers shoes, bowling and a snack for \$10 per child. **Sponge Bob Square Pants Birthday Party** packages are available. For information call mil 343-7702.

BOSS table tennis

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program sponsors a round robin, split format Table Tennis Invitational Dec. 6-7 at Miller Hall Fitness Center in Giessen. Registration deadline is Dec. 4. Entry fee is \$5. For details call mil 324-3158 or 343-7201.

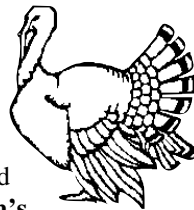
Basketball Tournament

A free Unit-Level Holiday Basketball Tournament will

take place from Dec 8-12 at the Giessen and Friedberg Fitness Centers. Teams are limited to 12 players and two non-playing coaches. NCAA rules apply. For information call Miller Hall at mil 343-8208.

Turkey/Ham Bowl

Bowl **three strikes** in a row at the Friedberg Bowling Center anytime from Dec. 1-20 and receive a free turkey or ham. Entry fee is \$6 and daily lane fees apply. The bowling center will be closed Nov. 27. A **drawing for free children's birthday parties** will be held between Dec. 1 and Jan. 15. Drop boxes are placed in various location throughout the 284th BSB. Anyone in uniform can bowl through Jan. 9 two games for 75 cents each between noon and 1 p.m., shoe rental is free. For details call mil 324-3104.



Outdoor Recreation trips

Outdoor Recreation will sponsor a trip to **Dresden** to visit historic churches, palaces and the opera house. Cost is \$49 for adults and \$39 for children 4-11 years. A ski trip to the **Black Forest** will take place Dec. 13. Cost is \$69 per person and includes ski or snowboard rental and lessons. A visit to the **Nürnberg Christmas Market**, which dates back to the 1600s, is planned for Dec. 20. Cost is \$39 for adults and \$20 for children age 4-11. Call Outdoor Rec at mil 343-8202 for information.

Auto Crafts centers

Auto Crafts centers in Giessen and Friedberg offer regular oil changes for \$10 during the month of December. An additional \$5 buys a 10-point inspection including fluid

checks, tires, battery, lights and wipers. For details call mil 324-3218 in Friedberg or mil 343-7050 in Giessen.

Comedy at the Keller Theatre

The Keller Theatre will present performances of "Forget Me Knot," a comedy guest show by David Tristram, Nov. 28-29 at 7:30 p.m. Box office hours are Wednesday to Friday from 4:30-8 p.m. for tickets, which are \$10 or 10 euros. For information call mil 343-6515.

Tree lightings in the BSB

A Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will be held Dec. 4 at 4:30 p.m. at the flagpole on the Giessen Depot, Dec. 5 at 4:30 p.m. at the parade field on Friedberg's Ray Barracks, Dec. 9 at 4:30 p.m. in front of the shoppette in Butzbach and Dec. 10 at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Community Center in Bad Nauheim. The tree lighting ceremonies are open to all families, community members and employees. There will be no special invitations sent out. For more information call the Public Affairs Office at mil 343-1600.

Thanksgiving feasts

The **Giessen Depot Dining Facility**, North Side Cafe, will sponsor a Thanksgiving Day Feast Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for meal card holders, and from noon to 3 p.m. for everyone. The menu includes roast turkey, stuffing, ham, mashed potatoes, fresh fruit, vegetables, pies and cakes. The **1st Brigade Rear Detachment Dining Facility** in Friedberg will host a Thanksgiving Feast Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The menu will include turkey, ham, steamship roast beef, Cornish hen, shrimp with stuffing, potatoes, assorted fruits and vegetables, and an assortment of pies and cakes. Bus

Continued on facing page

284th BSB — Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlight... Community spotlight

Continued from facing page

transportation is available at the following times. Buses will depart the Butzbach Shopette for Giessen at 11:30 a.m. and at 1 p.m. to the Giessen Depot Dining Facility. Return buses are scheduled to leave the dining facility at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. A shuttle bus will leave the Bad Nauheim Commissary at 11:40 a.m. and at 1:10 p.m. to the 1st Brigade Rear Detachment Dining Facility on Ray Barracks. Buses will depart the dining facility at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. for the return trip. Call mil 343-1800 for details.

Outprocessing briefs

Community outprocessing briefings are required 75-90 days before a Soldier's effective DEROS or separation date. The next briefing is scheduled for Dec. 9 in Friedberg at the Old Ironsides movies theater at 10 a.m. Spouses are encouraged to attend. For information call mil 343-8077/6535.

Free fitness classes

The Miller Hall Fitness Center in Giessen will host fitness classes every Tuesday and Thursday beginning with a **Spinning class** at 4:45 p.m., followed by **Ab-Lab** at 5:30 p.m., a **Power-Up** class at 5:45 p.m. and another **Ab-Lab** at 6:30 p.m.

Aerobics classes are offered at Butzbach Elementary School, including a **Step and Stretch** class on Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. and a **Kick and Cardio** class on Thursday from 7-8 p.m. The Friedberg Fitness Center will sponsor Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., including **Step, Interval and Aerobic Interval** classes. Call Giessen's Miller Hall at mil 343-7201 or Friedberg's fitnesscenter at mil 324-3155 for details.

Red Cross classes

Giessen Red Cross will conduct a Red Cross instructor workshop Dec. 3-5. The class covers **CPR**, first aid and AED. An **Adult and Child First Aid** class will take place Dec. 12 at 8 a.m. in Building 3. Cost is \$40 for instructor training and \$20 for first aid classes. For information call mil 343-1760.

Help for mothers-to-be

Helping Hands Outreach Ministry offers free assistance to expectant mothers who need help with daily activities. To sign up call Kim Smith at civ (0641) 495 5974.

Butzbach school news

Butzbach Elementary School will hold a

Parent Teacher Association meeting Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A **School Advisory Committee meeting** takes place Dec. 8 at 3:30 p.m. in the school's information center. There will be no school for kindergartners Dec. 10. The PTA will sponsor a **holiday dance** Dec. 12 for fifth- and sixth-grade students.

Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date for all housing areas in the 284th Base Support Battalion is Dec. 5.

Eleven steps to help conserve energy

* Turn off lights when you are not using them and turn off your computer and monitor at night. * Check your faucets for leaks and turn them off when not needed. * Car pool, take public transportation or improve your vehicle's fuel efficiency (by ensuring proper tire pressure. * Get some exercise by walking or using your bike. * Replace your incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent ones because they use up to 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times as long. * Buy concentrates and good in bulk because this can cost

you less and reduce waste packaging. * Donate good quality clothing, furniture, cell phones and computers. * Use products and materials again and buy durable products that you or others can use reuse. * Recycle your cans, bottles, paper, cardboard, toner cartridges, batteries and everything else your local recycler takes. * Recycle your unusable electronics, which frequently contain salvageable parts and toxic materials. * Buy products containing recycled content — look for the label.

Santa suits available

The Red Cross has Santa suits available for holiday functions. Reserve yours early by calling the Red Cross at mil 343-1760.

Christmas pet clinic set for Dec. 17

The Veterinarian Clinic hosts a mobile vaccination clinic Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon in Butzbach, from 1:30-2:30 in Bad Nauheim and from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Friedberg. Vaccinations are \$16 each. Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier and with someone who can safely handle them. For details call the Vet Clinic in Giessen at mil 343-6539 or in Hanau at mil 322-8160.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Community notes ... Community notes

Youth basketball

Hanau Youth Services basketball registration for ages 6-15 continues until Nov. 30. Practice begins the second week of December. Register at the CLEOS office, Building 20 on Pioneer Kaserne. For more information call CLEOS at mil 322-9144/9347 or the Youth Services Sports director at mil 322-9919/9942.

Army Learning Center academic tutor available

The Pioneer Education Center is offering free academic tutorial assistance in preparation for GT improvement, academic test, basic skills, general college courses and prerequisite study for service schools. The tutor is available on Tuesday and Thursday from 6-9 p.m. Family members are welcome. Contact the Pioneer Education Center at mil 322-8380 for additional information.

Bank closing

The Community Bank at the Wolfgang Shopping Center will be closed Nov. 27. The Community Bank in Büdingen will be open that day from 9 a.m. to noon. All automated teller machines will be in operation.

Polish pottery bingo

The American Red Cross will host a Polish pottery bingo Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gelnhausen Elementary School gymnasium. Bingo cards are \$2 or three cards for \$5 for the regular games. The last game will be a special bingo with Christmas pottery. The price for this game will be \$4 per card. For more information call Bianca Moton, American Red Cross at mil 322-1760 or civ (0160) 910-52378.

Force protection training

Force protection training level 1 is required for all U.S. military and civilian employees, U.S. dependents who are at least 14 years old, and all local national employees and contractors.

The next training session is Dec. 11 at Pioneer Kaserne's Evening Star Theater at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. This training can be scheduled for after-duty hours or on weekends for units and civilian groups if properly coordinated. For more information

tion call Jim Duffy at mil 322-8455.

Sunday Swing

Every first Sunday of the month a traditional "Sunday Swing Session" will take place at the Culture Club in Hanau-Wolfgang starting at 8 p.m.

Skate town Hanau

A new skate park opened in Hanau Nov. 1 across from the Hornbach Store at Kinzigheimer Weg 115. Entrance is 5 euros for adults and 3 euros for children. The skate park is open Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. Soon the skate town will be open for families on Sundays. More information is available at www.skatefamily.de.

Senckenberg Museum

The Frankfurt Naturmuseum Senckenberg science and natural history museum is open again. Added attractions are 11 new dinosaurs. The museum is located on "Bockenheimer Anlage" and is one of the largest natural history museums in Europe. Visitors can wonder at the exhibits such as the fossils from the world-famous Grube Messel. The museum offers supervised educational programs for adults and youngsters. More details are available in English at www.senckenberg.de.

Nutrition nuggets

Join the Women, Infants and Children-Europe staff every third Tuesday of the month from 12-12:30 p.m. at the Wolfgang Outreach Center, Building 514 on Wolfgang Kaserne, for discussions on hot topics in nutrition. Bring your lunch and a friend. Registration is not necessary and participation is free.

Dec. 16 — Get Fit for the New Year: Make a realistic New Year's resolution to last all year and learn what it means to be fit.

Redeployment training required

Attending a redeployment briefing is required by the 104th Area Support Group. Soldiers will not be cleared to PCS or ETS until they have taken this briefing. The briefing is about an hour long and is held every Friday at 9 a.m. and at 2 p.m. in the Army Community Service conference room, Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. Briefings can also be

R&R return schedule

Check the list below for the day you must return to Iraq. The report time is 3 a.m. at Rhein-Main's tent city.

Arrived:	Return:
Nov. 12	Nov. 29
Nov. 13	Nov. 30
Nov. 14	Dec. 01
Nov. 15	Dec. 02
Nov. 16	Dec. 03
Nov. 17	Dec. 04
Nov. 18	Dec. 05
Nov. 19	Dec. 06
Nov. 20	Dec. 07
Nov. 21	Dec. 08
Nov. 22	Dec. 09
Nov. 23	Dec. 10
Nov. 24	Dec. 11
Nov. 25	Dec. 12

scheduled for units at their convenience. For more information call Pam Belanger or Mike Hamm at mil 322-8965.

Home visitor job

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has a vacancy for a New Parent Education and Support Program home visitor. Applicant must have a BA or BS degree in social work, nursing, psychology, sociology, community or public health, human relations or behavioral science in related fields. Position requires two years experience beyond graduation working with expectant mothers, new parents, families, infants and children. Logistical support is provided. Send a resume and cover letter to Sara.Milbourne@ima-e.army.mil, fax to civ (06221) 57-4091 or mil 370-4091, or call civ (06221) 57-7840 or mil 370-7840.

Cardwell gym opens early

The operating hours for Cardwell Fitness Center in the Cardwell Housing area are Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pioneer Fitness Center

Work out five days a week at Pioneer Fitness Center. Cost is \$3 per class or \$30 for 12 classes. For a schedule of evening classes call mil 322-8197 or civ (06181) 88-8197.

Child care job

Part-time child care workers are needed during the Sunday morning Protestant service at Fliegerhorst Chapel. The job is a paid contract position. For details and to schedule an interview contact Chaplain Longworth at mil 322-9609, civ (06181) 88-9609 or Chaplain Horton at mil 322-9307/8120, civ (06181) 88-9307/8120.

Computer lab

Computers are available for use at the Education Center Computer Lab. They can be used to do online classes or surf the Internet but no email is available. Computers have basic software. The lab is open Mondays from 6-9 p.m., Thursdays 12:30-4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The lab is located in Building 11, Room 222 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-9300 for information.

CLEOS monthly visits

CLEOS visits Büdingen and Gelnhausen monthly for parents to make first-time registrations, annual re-registrations and pick up new hourly care cards without having to travel to Hanau. Everyone can use hourly care as needed by making a reservation with the CDC or with an FCC provider. E-4s and below should register as they qualify for 10 hours of free child care per child per month. CLEOS will be in Büdingen Dec. 12. Teenagers who use either the Galaxy or Millennium Teen Center need to be registered with the CLEOS office. For more information contact the CLEOS office on Pioneer at mil 322-9144 or civ (06181) 88-9144.

Vehicle Registry

The Hanau Vehicle Registry, Building 48, Pioneer Kaserne, will be closed:

Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 27-28.

Christmas holiday Dec. 25-26.

New Year's Day Jan. 1-2.

Reconnecting with your Soldier

Military spouses should attend the Reconnecting with Your Soldier Workshop about a week or two before their Soldiers return. If they want to attend the workshop before then, that's fine too. The workshops are held in

the Army Community Service conference room in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. ACS can bring the workshop to your Family Readiness Group too. Workshops are scheduled for Wednesdays. For more information call Pam Belanger or Mike Hamm at mil 322-8965.

Guest readers

The Guest Reader program brings people to Argonner Elementary School every Friday to read to two classrooms of students. The school staff is recruiting volunteers. Guest readers read to the same class each week to establish a rapport with the children. There are two sessions — from noon to 1 p.m. and from 1-2 p.m. It's important for interested individuals to make a commitment to reading on a regular basis. Guest readers will be trained on how to read to students. If you would like to volunteer call Geraldine Idzerda at civ (06181) 906 9229 for information.

ACAP briefing required

An Army Career and Alumni Program Preseparation Briefing is required no later than 90 days before your separation date. Take this briefing on a computer at the ACAP office in Building 11, Room 325 on Pioneer Kaserne, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call mil 322-8356/8308.

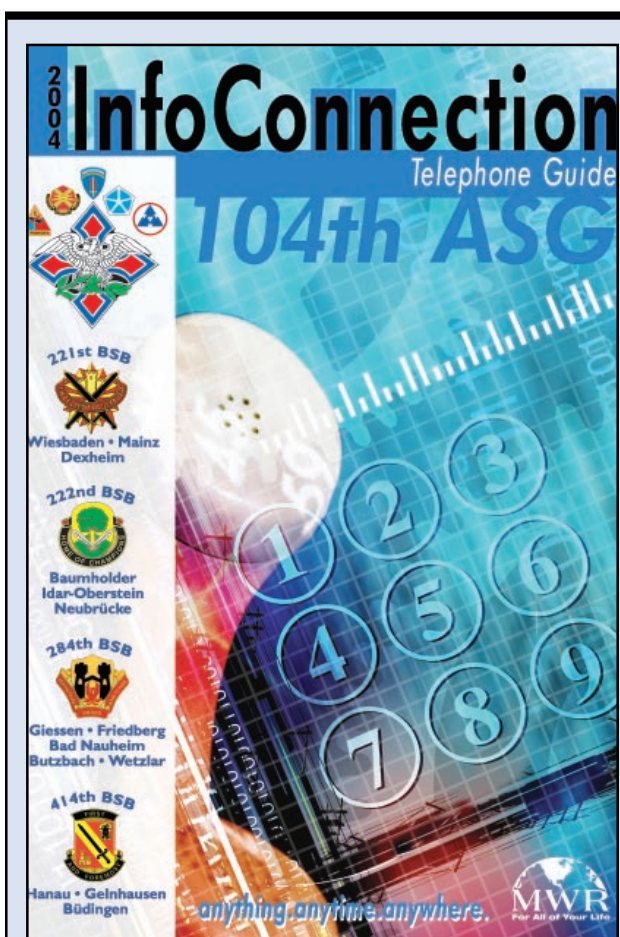
Spouse Education Assistance Program

Do you want to further your education or start on a college degree? The Spouse Education Assistance Program is a need-based education assistance program designed for Army spouses residing with active duty soldiers in Europe. The program provides up to \$2,000 for the academic year. For more information call ACS at mil 322-8965 or Army Emergency Relief at mil 322-8097.

Story-hour volunteers

Preschool story-hour volunteers are needed to do crafts and read books to the children every Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at Pioneer Library. Call Christi Bayha at mil 322-9657/8942 to help.

Get the latest news online at www.hanau.army.mil.



Pick up a copy of the new 104th ASG Info Connection Telephone Guide at your local Army Community Service office or Community Mail Room.

New Hanau telephone numbers

There have been many recent changes to telephone numbers and dialing procedures in Hanau. To avoid confusion and the need to figure out the new numbers, as detailed below, pick up a copy of the 104th Area Support Group 2004 Info Connection Telephone Guide available at the Army Community Service office in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne or at local Community Mail Rooms.

Cardwell, Hutier, Francois and Yorkhof Kasernes

All mil lines now have the new mil prefix of 323, with the following exceptions:

All numbers starting with "1xxx" kept the old mil prefix number, (322-1xxx).

If your mil number previously began with an 8, it now begins with a 2, (322-8xxx becomes 323-2xxx).

If your mil number previously began with a 9, it now begins with a 3, (322-9xxx becomes 323-3xxx).

If your mil number previously began with a 5, you now have a totally new assigned number.

Civilian access numbers changed from civ (06181) 88 to (06181) 180 with the exception that all numbers starting with "1xxx" kept the old commercial dial-in, civ (06181) 88-1xxx.

Fliegerhorst Kaserne

The civilian in-dial for Fliegerhorst changed from civ (06183) 51 plus last three digits to the new (06183) 51 plus last four digits.

All new DSN lines after this date will have the DSN prefix of 322-6XXX.

Becoming financially prepared with ACS

By Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Do you find your checkbook balance is a big fat zero at the end of the month? Army Community Service can help you find out just where all your money goes.

Sandi Horyza is the financial readiness specialist at Hanau's ACS office and she offers financial classes every week and personalized help for people with money problems. Remember, money problems don't just make your wallet lighter, they're the number one issue cited for marital strife and during divorce proceedings.

Horyza knows what she's talking about. With a bachelor of science degree in business and a master's in business administration, plus eight years of experience working with large financial institutions, she can put you on the right track to a better financial future. The range of financial readiness classes offered by ACS can teach you how to maintain a balanced checkbook, to get and stay out of debt, how to save for a home, your children's education or your retirement, and how to start investing.

"One thing people want is advice on how to find excess cash each month," said Horyza. "I sit down with them and examine their specific financial situation and try to learn why they're living paycheck to paycheck. Most often it's a combination of mismanagement and a lack of creating financial goals. It doesn't matter if you make \$10,000 a year or a million a year, every family needs a budget to stay on course to meet their financial goals." One key to budgeting is to track your spending. Write down every thing you spend money on each day and add it up at the end of the month. "Once you find where your money goes, you'll know where to cut back and that's a great starting point," said Horyza.

The dictionary defines a budget as:

1. A statement of the financial position of an organization (in this case, your family) for a definite period of time based on estimates of spending and income.
2. A plan for the coordination of resources (your income and assets).
3. The amount of money that is available for a specific purpose (running your household).
4. It also means, when used as a verb, to adhere to a budget, i.e. to "budget" your money.

A budget is like a diet. Healthy people watch their diet carefully, although they may not "be on a diet," and people with healthy finances watch their budgets just as carefully. Budgets and diets are not just for folks having money or health problems. You don't have to give up every piece of cheesecake to adhere to a healthy diet, and you don't have to give up all non-essential spending to keep your budget in the black. It's a matter of knowing how much you're spending and what you're getting for your money.

Horyza offered these tips for creating and keeping a budget:

* Set financial goals — setting financial goals is the first step in creating a budget. "If you don't know where you want to go, you won't know how to get there," she said.

* Write expenses down — write down a description, the date and the amount of every transaction for three months. "Transactions" include income as well as expenses, especially if you receive money from more sources than just a

salary. After each expense item, indicate if you paid cash, wrote a check or paid with a credit card. By recording what you bought, and how you paid for it, you'll learn how and where you spend your money.

* Compile the information — after recording three months of your spending, compile the information into a cash flow statement. This will show you where your money is coming from (cash inflow) and where it is going out to (cash outflow).

* Create the budget — the next step is to create your own budget. Plan to put aside the money you'll need for those expenses that occur every month — rent or mortgage payments, car payments, utilities (electric, phone, gas, water), cell phone, television and Internet fees. You can enjoy premium TV and unlimited Internet access as long as you plan (budget) for it. That way there'll be no surprises when it comes time to sit down and pay the bills. Once you've budgeted for the necessities, you should budget a percentage of your income for emergency savings, retirement and for whatever is important to you, whether that's your children's college education or a home of your own.

* Make an annual net worth statement — your net worth is your total assets minus your total liabilities. When calculating your net worth use the current fair-market value of your assets and the current balance of your liabilities. You'll quickly see if you're in the "black" or in the "red."

* Have a reward system — try to make planning for your financial future fun. After you and your family have reached your annual goal, enjoy a night out on the town. Or perhaps your budgeting included saving money for a great vacation. You've

reached your goal, now enjoy the vacation. You'll be able to enjoy that vacation even more knowing that you've got the money in the bank to pay for it.

"Maintaining a budget can be a bit of work, but it's so rewarding to take control of your financial future," said Horyza.

When you review your first month's record of your spending, you may be surprised where your money has gone. "Many soldiers dry-clean their uniforms: Is that something you can live without?" When you add up the dry cleaning bill at the end of the month, you may quickly decide it's an extra expense, not a necessity. Cutting coupons and buying the generic brands can save more money than you think. "Buy the generic corn flakes; the kids won't know the difference." As the old saying goes, "a penny saved is a penny earned."

For help with money matters sign up for any of the financial readiness classes offered by ACS. For more information call Horyza at mil 322-8977.

ACS financial readiness classes held at ACS, Building 9 on Pioneer

- First Wednesday of each month — Checkbook Management, Banking and Credit Union.
- Second Wednesday of each month — Budgeting, Debt Liquidation and Credit Management.
- Third Wednesday of each month — Principles of Personal Finance.
- Fourth Wednesday of each month — Investments.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Safeguarding school buses

American, German authorities team up to ensure safety of Hanau school children

Commentary by Maj. Anthony Black
414th Base Support Battalion provost marshal

If you were in the area of the Old and New Argonner housing areas Nov. 12 around 8 a.m. you probably noticed a large police presence engaged in directing school buses to a controlled inspection area.

A joint task force comprised of German police, customs, the intelligence community and American Military Police were engaged in a force protection operation to ensure community school bus drivers are complying with all local laws and regulations when driving children to and from school. The task force was particularly concerned that the buses were equipped with the required safety devices, that bus drivers possessed valid driving documents and were in compliance with German employment regulations and policies.

The official results of the mission are still pending; however the general feeling among the task force members is that parents should feel good knowing their children are in capable hands when they are picked up from home by these drivers and that this community and local national law enforcement agencies take the business of force protection in the 414th Base Support Battalion very seriously.

Annual ceremony in Hanau

Germans, Americans honor fallen comrades



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Spc. Christopher Tompkins of the Military Police K9 unit and Rio inspect school buses while German police observe.



Photo by Jayme Loppnow

Col. Gregg Martin (right), 130th Engineer Brigade commander, speaks with Werner Johnsdorf, president of the Former Railroad Engineer Association, after the wreath-laying ceremony.

By Jayme Loppnow
130th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office

Germans and Americans regardless of nationality, age, gender or political beliefs gathered to commemorate Volkstrauertag, Germany's Memorial Day, Nov. 16, at Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau.

Members of the 130th Engineer Brigade and Ehemalige Eisenbahn Pionier Kameradschaft (Former Railroad Engineer Association) along with current and past members of Pioneer Brigade 40, Reservisten-Kameradschaft Hanau, German 11th Panzer Division, Marinekameradschaft, Hanau and German Africa Corps, gathered at a monument dedicated to German railroad engineers located in front of the 130th Engineer Brigade Headquarters.

The memorial has been standing since 1976, and each year the group gathers to lay a wreath in memory of the soldiers and victims of both world wars.

"This is a day when we honor all comrades," said Werner Johnsdorf, president of the Former Railroad Engineer Association.

"Our circle of comrades who come every year is getting fewer and fewer, but we are here to remember our comrades, and it's an honor to do so."

Johnsdorf referenced the situation in Iraq and the duty of the soldier.

"Regardless of the political situation, soldiers have to do their job and follow orders," he said. "The political situation all over the world is so unclear that we cannot say that we have peace."

Col. Gregg Martin, 130th Engineer Brigade commander, spoke of the partnership between the two countries.

"We honor your service and patriotism, and we welcome your friendship and alliance," said Martin. "We thank the German armed forces for the support they have given us with gate guards and security

that they provided for the American armed forces deployed to Iraq."

Two other similar monuments commemorating railroad engineers are located in Berlin and at the German Army Engineer School in Munich.

"We thank the German armed forces for the support they have given us with gate guards and security that they provided for the American armed forces deployed to Iraq."